Valedictory address
delivered Feb: 24th
1812

Mess. Gentlemen — we conclude our lectures for the present year. In re-viewing the course which I have de-livered, I have to lament its imper-fections partly from my inability to do justice to the difficult branches of medicine which I have ~~been attempted to~~ ~~attempted to teach~~, ~~assigned to me~~, and partly to the li-mits that are assigned to our lectures by the laws of the University.

Medicine has been studied & practised in three ways. 1 as a Drama, in which men act a solemn and formal part in sick rooms without either knowledge or faith in the profession they exercise. 2ly ~~as~~

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2d: It has been studied and ~~carried~~ practised as a trade in which the acquisition of wealth is the only object of a physicians pursuit, and to which he sacrifices all considerations of hu=
=manity, friendship, justice and patriotism ~~&~~ Lastly it has been ~~carried~~ studied & practised as a science
— In this case, a physician ~~can~~ observes, reads — thinks — and reasons, and prepares the health and ~~life~~ lives of his patients and the advancement of his profession to pri=
=vate interest, or temporary reputation.
— I have endeavoured to teach the ~~the~~ practice of medicine in the last way that has been mentioned. In my attempts to do so, I have delivered a number of new principles founded upon facts that ~~are~~

in many instances are Obvious to the sense,
and that have been Obtruded upon me
by the phenomena of Diseases which are
peculiar to the United States. These princi-
-ples, when first delivered, fell apparently
still born from this Chair. They soon
however revived, but under such un-
-favourable circumstances as to be
thrust from the arms, & even driven
from the doors of most of the citizens
of Philadelphia. For many years
they rambled up and down our streets
like ragged beggar boys with no other sup-
-port than what they received from my
scanty store, and the charity of two or

their medical friends. From the shelter, clothing and substistance thus afforded them, and from gratuitous supplies from other quarters, they have acquired such a healthy and vigorous constitution, that they have been admitted into the houses, and taken into the service of most of the families in our City. But to drop our simile. The ~~[illegible]~~ unpopular and odious remedies which were suggested by the principles I have taught, (and which were opposed with a fury ~~which~~ that was compared by a Clergyman in a neighbouring State to "the opening of the mouth of a hell against them")

have been generally adopted, and have become ~~the~~ in many instances the domestic medicines of ~~many~~ the persons who formerly ~~opposed~~ dreaded and opposed them. It is true the principles which suggested those remedies are still unpopular, but they must sooner or later follow them, for they are so intimately related, that the latter cannot exist independently of the former.

In thus mentioning the happy issue of the studies ~~of~~ and labors of my life, I should feel myself criminal, did I not ~~thus~~ acknowledge in this public manner the goodness of that Being who has condescended to employ ~~to help them~~

a weak and ~~so~~ unworthy instrument ~~simple & humble talents he gave me for the benefit of his creatures~~, for the purpose of increasing the means of promoting the health and happiness of his creatures. But my Ob:= ligations do not stop here. I owe much to ~~my bro~~ several of my brethren in this city and in other parts of the United States, also to many of my pupils for a number of useful facts & hints by which my principles have been supported, consulted and extended far beyond my original ideas of their application or usefulness. nor will I conceal in the last place my obligations to the talents, learning and ingenuity of the gentlemen who have opposed ~~it in all its~~ my System of

of medicine in all its stages, for a ~~much~~ ~~of the fro~~ a large share of the favourable reception it has met with from the public. They have pointed out its weak parts, and have by that means ~~have~~ led me, ~~to remove~~ by multiplying facts, ~~from~~ by means of reading & observation, to defend those parts, and thus to render the whole System more acceptable and useful. For the important aid and support ~~it has~~ they have given it, I thus publickly offer them my most grateful acknowledgments, accompanied with a request that they will continue to favour it with their ingenious, and salutary animadversions.

The Roman Artists when they ~~engraved~~

their names upon their works always added a word that denoted that they believed them to be imperfect. It was "pingebat", or "faciebat", not pixit - nor fecit. In like manner I thus publickly inscribe the imperfect tense upon the system of medicine which I ~~had~~ have taught. It will not account for many of the phenomena of the Animal Oeconomy, — it will not explain the Cause of many morbid states of the body, nor does it provide a Cure for several of the most distressing diseases which afflict the human body. — I have made this declaration Gent.n with a view to call upon you to take Charge of the Defective & unfinished

labors of my hands. The years that I have passed, ~~often~~ remind me that I must shortly retire from this Chair. The time of this event is known only to the great Arbiter of life & death, but did I believe this would be the ~~the~~ last time I should ever address a Class of students of medicine, my parting advice to them should be, Cultivate - Cultivate - cultivate ~~pri~~ principles in medicine. [To these, the United States owe ~~their~~ the reputation ~~in~~ (~~as the late Dr Bedford said~~ ~~foreign Countries in~~ they have acquired in our Science in foreign Countries. ~~The discoveries~~ which are made by them are not fortuitous, or transient. They ~~are~~ do not consist in ~~ephemeral~~ publications

of ~~[illegible]~~ cures of diseases by new remedies.

~~They~~ Long may this character of our country continue to be merited, and may the ~~[illegible]~~ ~~our~~ discovery of new principles in medicine consign some old error to ~~[illegible]~~ Oblivion, and establish some new truth ~~in medicine~~ every year, until our Globe shall perform its last annual revolution and time itself shall be no more.

I cannot take leave of you Gent.ⁿ without regretting that the ~~[illegible]~~ numbers & pressure of my engagements during the winter have prevented my cultivating a greater intercourse with you. I have lost I am sure both pleasure and improvement by my want of leisure for that purpose.

Accept of my thanks for the ~~respect~~ patient and regular ~~fol~~ attention ~~and punctuality~~ with which you have been pleased to honour these lectures, and of my most af=
=fectionate wishes for your ~~continued~~ ~~u~~ usefulness in your profession, and for your personal happiness.

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